THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) An additional cadet strength of 50,000 for the period between 1991 to 1996 has been sanctioned by the Government at the rate of 10,000 cadets per year. The proposed increase in the cadet strength for the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 has been allocated to NCC Directorates for extending the NCC coverage to new educational institutions.

Based on the recommendations of the High Powered Evaluation Committee, Government has revised the aims and training syllabus of NCC, updated the training aids, and increased the number of vacancies in Attachment Courses and National Integration Camps.

No proposal for further expansion and strengthening of NCC is under consideration of the Government at present.

Flight from Ahmedabad to Nairobi

*232. SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL:
SHRI JAGESH DESAI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to start a direct flight from Ahmedabad to Nairobi;

(b) whether the alternate suggestion of originating one of the existing flights between Bombay and Nairobi from Ahmedabad has been examined; and

(c) if so, what is the decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Direct flight between Ahmedabad and Nairobi was not found feasible due to inadequate traffic.

Investment in Pharmaceutical Industry

*233. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total investment in pharmaceutical industry and what is the rate of growth during last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp decline over the years in percentage growth of production and formulations;

(c) what was the profitability in this industry in 1967-68 and as on date;

(d) whether it is a fact that due to decline in profit, industrialist-investors rate of growth and formulations have gone down;

(e) whether it is a fact that prices of drugs have increased, if so, what is the percentage of increase; and

(f) whether the drug industry has been asking for delicencing and decontrol and what are the implications of such demand indicating its negative and positive aspects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The total investment in pharmaceutical industry in the organised sector is about Rs. 1000 crores. On the basis of industrial approvals granted during the last 3 years, the percentage growth in investment indications over the previous year was 53% in 1991 and 44% in 1992.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) According to the Hathi Committee Report the Industry as an average was making gross profit of 15.47% on the net sales in 1969-70. This profitability of industry also included non-drug activities of the companies in this industry. The Gross Profit as percentage of net sales of 23 major companies in the industry relating to their drug and formulation activities only as reported by the companies varied from (−) 1.8% to 16.7% in 1991-92.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir. The increase in 1990-91 over the previous year was 6.6 percent and in 1991-92 over the year 1990-91 was 6.8 percent.

(f) Yes, Sir. A Background Note for discussion on the Review of Drug Policy, 1986 has been laid on the Table of the House on 12-8-92.

Seniority Principle in Appointments

*234. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seniority principle in the matter of top-most bureaucratic appointments has not been strictly followed in recent times;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have been following an informal fast tract